

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/004519

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G02B6/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| X | WO 93/24851 A (DU PONT) 9 December 1993 (1993-12-09) page 5, line 27 - page 6, line 32 page 13, line 26 - page 14, line 33; figures 1-14 | 1-3, 6, 7, 13, 24-27, 34, 35 |
| Y A | ----- -/- | 31 4, 5, 8-12, 39 |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *8* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

15.07.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/004519

| C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
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| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | US 5 404 417 A (JOHNSON MELVIN H ET AL) 4 April 1995 (1995-04-04) column 6, line 28 - line 44 column 7, line 47 - column 8, line 16 column 24, line 10 - line 35 column 24, line 59 - column 25, line 15; figures 1-52 | 1-3,6,7, 13, 24-27, 34,35 |
| Y A | ----- | 31 4,5, 8-12,39 |
| X | WO 93/05418 A (DU PONT) 18 March 1993 (1993-03-18) page 15, line 8 - line 23 page 48, line 6 - line 19 page 49, line 33 - page 54, line 23; figures 1-52 | 1-3,6,7, 13, 24-27, 34-38 |
| Y A | ----- | 31 4,5, 8-12,39 |
| X | US 5 102 212 A (PATTERSON RICHARD A) 7 April 1992 (1992-04-07) column 6, line 59 - column 8, line 27; figures 7,11,13 | 1-3,7, 14,24, 32-35 |
| X | EP 0 116 481 A (SILEC LIAISONS ELEC ; TELECOMMUNICATIONS SA (FR)) 22 August 1984 (1984-08-22) page 6, line 35 - page 8, line 35; figures 3-5 | 1-3,7, 14,15, 23-27, 32,33 |
| X | EP 0 226 482 A (TELECOMMUNICATIONS SA ; SILEC LIAISONS ELEC (FR)) 24 June 1987 (1987-06-24) column 3, line 6 - column 4, line 32; figures 1-4 | 1-3,7, 14,15, 23,24, 32,33 |
| X | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 03, 27 February 1998 (1998-02-27) -& JP 09 304643 A (TATSUTA ELECTRIC WIRE & CABLE CO LTD; NIPPON ELECTRIC GLASS CO LTD), 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28) abstract; figure 4 | 1-3,7, 14,15, 24,32,33 |
| | ----- -/- | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/004519

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| X | WO 86/01306 A (AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH) 27 February 1986 (1986-02-27) page 8, line 22 - page 9, line 6; figure 4 ----- | 1-3,7, 14, 24-27, 32,33 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004519

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-15, 23 (first alternative), 24-27, 31-39

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-15, 23(first alternative), 24 - 27, 31 - 39

Subject 1 relates to a splice connector with a connector body having at least two independent clamping sections each for clamping one of the bare fibre ends to be spliced.

2. claims: 16 - 22, 23 (second alternative) , 28 - 30

Subject 2 relates to a splice connector with a connector body having a bore with regions of different cross section diameters and of special shapes, and to fixing means located at the connector body for axially and rotationally retaining the optical fibres into the bores of the connector body.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004519

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
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Information on patent family members:

International Application No

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